

# MISS LULU BETT

by  
**Zona Gale**  
Illustrations by  
**Irwin Myers**

(Continued from last week)

Mamma and recovered, she was eating cold scrambled eggs on the corner of the kitchen table when the tea cream soda party was ready to set out. Dwight threw her a glance. "Better come, too, Mother Bett," but she shook her head. She wished to go, wished to give to her ordinary refusal a quality of contempt. When Jenny arrived with Bobby, she had brought a sheet of stained for Mrs. Bett, and took them to her in the kitchen, and as she laid the flowers beside her, the young girl stopped and kissed her. "You little darling!" cried Mrs. Bett, and clung to her, her lifted eyes lit by something intense and living. But when the tea cream party had got off at last, Mrs. Bett left her supper, gathered up the flowers, and crossed the lawn to the old crumpled Grandma Gates.

"This ain't have 'em," the old woman thought. And then it was quite beautiful to watch her with Grandma Gates, whom she tended and potted, to whose complaints she listened, and to whom she tried to tell the small events of her day. When her neighbor had gone, Grandma Gates said that it was as good as a dose of medicine to have her come in.

Mrs. Bett sat on the porch restored and pleasant when the family returned. Di and Bobby had walked home with Jenny. "Look here," said Dwight Herbert, "who is it sits home and has tea cream put in her lap like a queen?" "Vanilla or chocolate?" Mrs. Bett demanded. "Chocolate, mamma!" Ina cried, with the breeze in her voice. "Vanilla sets better," Mrs. Bett said. They sat with her on the porch while she ate. Ina swung on a creaking board. Dwight rocked a leg over the railing. Monona sat pulling her skirt over her feet, and humming all on one note. There was no moon, but the warm dusk had a quality of transparency as if it were lit in all its particles.

The gate opened, and some one came up the walk. They looked, and it was Lulu.

"Well, if it ain't Miss Lulu Bett!"



"Well, if it ain't Miss Lulu Bett!" Dwight cried, involuntarily.

Dwight cried involuntarily, and Ina cried out something. "How did you know?" Lulu asked. "Know! Know what?" "That it ain't Lulu Deacon. Hello, mamma!" She passed the others and kissed her mother. "Say," said Mrs. Bett placidly. "And I just ate up the last spoonful of cream." "Ain't Lulu Deacon?" Ina's voice rose and swelled richly. "What you talking?" "Didn't he write to you?" Lulu asked. "Not a word," Dwight answered this. "All we've had we had from you—the last from Savannah, Georgia." "Savannah, Georgia," said Lulu, and laughed. They could see that she was dressed well, in dark red cloth, with a little fitting hat and a drooping veil. She did not seem in any wise upset, nor, save for that nervous laughter, did she show her excitement. "Well, but he's been with you, isn't he?" Dwight demanded. "Isn't he here? Where is he?" "Must be 'most to Oregon by this time," Lulu said. "Oregon?" "You see," said Lulu, "he had another wife." "Why, he had not!" exclaimed Dwight absurdly. "Yes, he hasn't seen her for fifteen years and he thinks she's dead. But he isn't sure." "Nonsense," said Dwight. "Why, of course she's dead if he thinks so." "I had to be sure," said Lulu.

At first dumb before this, Ina now cried out: "Monona! Go upstairs to bed at once!" "It's only quarter to," said Monona, with assurance. "Do as mamma tells you." "But—" "Monona!" She went, kissing them all good-night and taking her time about it. Everything was suspended while she kissed them and departed, walking slowly backward. "Married!" said Mrs. Bett with tardy apprehension. "Lulu, was your husband married?" "Yes," Lulu said, "my husband was married, mother." "Mercy," said Ina. "Think of anything like that in our family." "Well, go on—go on!" Dwight cried. "Tell us about it."

Lulu spoke in a monotone, with her old manner of hesitation: "We were going to Oregon. First down to New Orleans and then out to California and up the coast." On this she paused and sighed. "Well, then at Savannah, Georgia, he said he thought I better know, first. So he told me."

"Yes—well, what did he say?" Dwight demanded irritably. "Cora Waters," said Lulu. "Cora Waters. She married him down in San Diego, eighteen years ago. She went to South America with him." "Well, he never let us know of it, if she did," said Dwight.

"No," she married him just before he went. Then in South America, after two years, she ran away again. That's all he knows." "That's a pretty story," said Dwight contemptuously. "He says if she'd been alive, she'd been after him for a divorce. And she never has been, so he thinks she must be dead. The trouble is," Lulu said again, "he wasn't sure. And I had to be sure."

"Well, but mercy," said Ina, "couldn't he find out now?" "It might take a long time," said Lulu simply, "and I didn't want to stay and not know." "Well, then, why didn't he say so here?" Ina's indignation mounted. "He would have. But you know how sudden everything was. He said he thought about telling us right there in the restaurant, but of course that'd been hard—wouldn't it? And then he felt so sure she was dead."

"Why did he tell you at all, then?" demanded Ina, whose processes were simple. "Yes, well! Why indeed?" Dwight Herbert brought out these words with a curious emphasis. "I thought that, just at first," Lulu said, "but only just at first. Of course that wouldn't have been right. And then, you see, he gave me my choice."

"Gave you your choice?" Dwight echoed. "Yes. About going on and taking the chances. He gave me my choice when he told me, there in Savannah, Georgia." "What made him conclude, by then, that you ought to be told?" Dwight asked. "Why, he'd got to thinking about it," she answered. A silence fell. Lulu sat looking out toward the street. "The only thing," she said, "as long as it happened, I kind of wish he hadn't told me till we got out to Oregon." "Lulu!" said Ina. Ina began to cry. "You poor thing!" she said. Her tears were a signal to Mrs. Bett, who had been striving to understand all. Now she too wept, tossing up her hands and rocking her body. Her saucer and spoon clattered on her knee. "He felt bad, too," Lulu said. "He!" said Dwight. "He must have."

"But if we don't tell, what'll they think then?" Said Dwight: "They'll think what they always think when a wife leaves her husband. They'll think you couldn't get along. That's all." "I should hate that," said Lulu. "Well, I should hate the other, let me tell you."

"Dwight, Dwight," said Ina. "Let's go in the house. I'm afraid they'll hear—" As they rose, Mrs. Bett plucked at her returned daughter's sleeve. "Lulu," she said, "was his other wife—was she there?" "No, no, mother. She wasn't there."

Mrs. Bett's lips moved, repeating the words, "Then that ain't so bad," she said. "I was afraid maybe she turned you out."

"No," Lulu said, "it wasn't that bad, mother."

Mrs. Bett brightened. In little matters, she quarreled and resented, but the large issues left her blank. Through some indeterminate sense of the importance due this crisis, the Deacons entered their parlor. Dwight lighted that high, central burner and faced about, saying: "In fact, I simply will not have it, Lulu! You expect, I take it, to make your home with us in the future, on the old terms?"

"I mean, did Ninian give you any money?" "No. He didn't give me any money—only enough to get home on. And I kept my suit—why?" she flung her head back. "I wouldn't have taken any money."

"That means," said Dwight, "that you will have to continue to live here—on the old terms, and of course I'm quite willing that you should. Let me tell you, however, that this is on condition—on condition that this disgraceful business is kept to ourselves."

"She made no attempt to combat him now. She looked back at him, quivering, and in a great surprise, but she said nothing." "Tendy, Lulu," said Ina, "wouldn't that be best? They'll talk anyway. But this way they'll only talk about you, and the other way it'd be about all of us."

Lulu said only: "But the other way would be the truth." Dwight's eyes narrowed. "My dear Lulu," he said, "are you sure of that?" "Sure?" "Yes. Did he give you any proofs?" "Proofs?" "Letters—documents of any sort? Any sort of assurance that he was speaking the truth?" "Why, no," said Lulu. "Proofs—no. He told me."

## ELY DISTRICT

Chas. Andrews and family entertained relatives from Ithaca, Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Newman of Alma were Sunday visitors at the home of Alfred Nestle.

Quite a number attended the party at Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker's, Friday evening. Floyd Bacon thrashed out his cucumber seed the first of the week. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Howell of Alma called in this vicinity one day last week.

The prayer meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bacon was well attended last Thursday evening. The meeting this week will be held with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Andrews. Farmers' Club meets with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hanford Thursday, October 19.

What might have proved a serious accident occurred on the angling road last Saturday evening when two cars collided. The car owned by Elmer Brown was badly smashed on one side while the other was less damaged. Luckily no one was hurt.

A number attended the auction sale Monday at C. F. Hainline's. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dalrymple and the former's father visited in Flint Sunday. Mrs. Dalrymple's father returned home with them to spend a few days.

Several from Coe attended the home coming at the Christian church in Alma Sunday afternoon. Alice Leonard who is teaching near Stanton spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Leonard. Mr. and Mrs. Good spent Saturday and Sunday near Breckenridge with their son.

Mr. Saul Wares is very sick at this writing. C. D. Alexander and wife who have been visiting in Clinton for the past few days returned home Thursday. Mr. Allen and family from near Shepherd spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Good.

Tom Petthel and wife accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Boyles and daughter of St. Louis autoed to Chesaning Saturday where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cook, returning home Monday. Mrs. George McNaughton entertained her niece and family, Mrs. Belows, of Six Lakes Sunday.

Walter Gould, wife and children, spent Sunday at the home of his brother, Roy. Fay Fordyce had a piece of steel removed from his eye Sunday, which has been causing him some suffering.

**SETHTON**  
The Mere Club of North Shade spent a social evening at the Jason Gaines home, Friday. Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Willert from near Perrinton called on friends here Monday. Elder Bates is recovering from a severe attack of stomach trouble. Mrs. Mary Platt entertained her parents from Alma, Sunday.

Burroughs Adding Machine Co.	4.70
P. F. Collier & Son	33.30
Geo. H. Dorn	4.00
Douglas Bros. & Co.	4.61
Ed. Ewing	32.30
E. N. Grover	18.00
MacLean	3.60
C. Vine	21.00
J. Lutz	18.00
G. VanNorden	18.00
J. Graves	21.00
J. Blank	21.00
O. Mack	21.00
J. Howe	21.00
D. Howe	21.00
R. Kibb	18.00
F. Williams	30.00
J. Zimmerman	24.00
M. Marsh	18.00
E. Basick	12.40
A. D. 1922	12.40
Sutton	12.40
C. S. Baker	12.40
H. Voller	30.00

Moved by Commissioner Glass and supported by Commissioner Archer that the above bills as read be allowed and the clerk be instructed to issue orders for same covering vouchers Nos. 1634 to 1560. Ayes: Commissioners Glass, Chick, Creaser and Archer. Nays—None.

Moved by Commissioner Chick and supported by Commissioner Glass that the petition for the paving from the intersection of Pine Avenue, east to River avenue, thence north on River avenue to Richmond street be received and referred to the City Manager and that he make plans, specifications, and estimates on same. Ayes: Commissioners Chick, Glass, Archer and Creaser. Nays—None.

Moved by Commissioner Chick and supported by Commissioner Creaser that the Commission adjourn. The motion prevails. CHARLES R. MURPHY, Mayor. CLARENCE F. BLANCH, Clerk.

**ELECTION NOTICE**  
To the Qualified Electors of the City of Alma, Michigan.  
Notice is hereby given that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in said city on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1922, at the places in the several Precincts of said City as designated below:

First Ward, First Precinct—City Hall.  
First Ward, Second Precinct—Superior Baking Co.  
Second Ward, First Precinct—Schick's Feed Barn Office.  
Second Ward, Second Precinct—DeRusha's Coal Co. Office.  
Third Ward—Arzenda Hotel.  
Fourth Ward—Edison Moore Building.

For the purpose of voting for the election of following officers: SENATORIAL—United States Senator. STATE—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor General, Attorney General, Justice of the Supreme Court, all vacancies for term ending December 31, 1923.

CONGRESSIONAL—Member of Congress for the Congressional district of which said City forms a part. LEGISLATIVE—One Senator in the State Legislature for the Senatorial District of which said City forms a part; one Representative in the State Legislature for the Legislative District of which said City forms a part.

COUNTY—Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Probating Attorney, County Auditor, Circuit Court Commissioner, County Drain Commissioner, County Surveyor, Two Coroners, County Road Commissioner.

There shall also be submitted at said election three proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Michigan as follows: A proposed Amendment to the Constitution providing that Article XIII be amended by adding a section to be known as section 5, to read as follows:

## LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the village of Ithaca, in said county, on the 16th day of October, A. D. 1922.

Present: Hon. James G. Kress, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the estate of HOWELL LEWIS REID, Deceased. Francis King having filed in said court his final administration account as Administrator of said estate, and his petition praying for the allowance thereof.

It is ordered, that the 7th day of November, A. D. 1922, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for examining and allowing said account.

It is further ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county. A true copy. JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate.

**LIEN SALE**  
Default having been made in the conditions of a certain decree of the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, the same being dated July 19, 1916, and recorded in the register of deeds for the County of Gratiot, State of Michigan on the 15th day of February, 1917, in liber 154 on page 415 on which lien there is claimed to be due and unpaid the sum of one hundred dollars, and no proceedings at law have been instituted against the heirs or administrator to recover the said one hundred dollars or any part thereof.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said decree and the statute in such case made and provided, the said lien will be foreclosed by a sale of all of the premises therein described at public auction, to the highest bidder at the north front door of the court house at the village of Ithaca in said County of Gratiot, on the 27th day of October, 1922, at one o'clock in the afternoon which said premises are described as follows: The Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of section number 23 township number 12 north of range 3 west, Michigan. Dated, July 14, 1922. ORA FRED COOLEY, Lienee.

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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
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10:30 to 12:30, 1:30 to 3:00 Evenings 7:00 to 8:30 Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and by appointment. Weichman Building SAGINAW, MICH.

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MARY M. DICKERSON, Clerk  
ROOMS 4 and 5 OPERA HOUSE BLOCK

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Day phone 5-Red Night phone 469 Funeral Director

**FIRE INSURANCE JOHN D. SPINNEY, Agent**  
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Leave Ithaca 7:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
Fare—Alma to St. Johns.....\$1.10  
Fare—Alma to Ithaca.....\$1.20

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